

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01
TRSE-00 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 /072 W
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R 281635Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9979
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
USMISSION NATO
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 00796

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: PINT, ELAB, ECON, PO
SUBJ: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS: PRESIDENT CALLS FOR LABOR
RESTRAINT

SUMMARY: PRESIDENT EANES, VISITING THE ALGARVE AS PART OF
HIS PRESIDENT-TO-PEOPLE PROGRAM, CALLED FOR RESTRAINT BY
WORKERS IN PRESSING THEIR DEMANDS. THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS
WILL GIVE A BOOST TO GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO REACH AN "UNDER-
STANDING" WITH ORGANIZED LABOR TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC RECOVERY.
END SUMMARY.

1. EANES CALLS FOR RESTRAINT: PRESIDENT EANES BEGAN A
TWO-DAY VISIT TO THE ALGARVE JAN 27 BY CALLING UPON
UNIONIZED WORKERS TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT IN PRESSING THEIR
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DEMANDS. TO THE PUBLIC SERVICE WORKERS, CURRENTLY
DEMANDING INCREASES ABOVE THE 15 PERCENT RAISE APPROVED BY
THE GOVERNMENT, THE PRESIDENT COUNSELED RESTRAINT. TO
REPRESENTATIVES OF A FISHERMAN'S UNION WHO HAD JUST
DECIDED AGAINST A WORK STOPPAGE, EANES PRAISED THE
NO-STRIKE DECISION AND CALLED FOR "UNIONS STRONG ENOUGH NOT
TO STRIKE."

2. PCP DISAGREES: THE COMMUNISTS APPARENTLY WERE NOT LISTENING. EVEN WHILE EANES WAS CALLING FOR RESTRAINT, THE PCP PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION WAS DEMANDING REPEAL OF THE DECREE ESTABLISHING THE 15 PERCENT CEILING ON WAGE INCREASES FOR PUBLIC SECTOR WORKERS.

3. PS DISSIDENTS HANG ON: THE FOUR SOCIALIST LEFT-WING DISSIDENTS EXPELLED BY THE PARTY ON JAN 26 TOLD THE ASSEMBLED PRESS ON JAN 27 THAT THE EXPULSIONS WERE ILLEGAL AND THAT THEY WOULD NOT ACCEPT THEM. CARMELINDA PEREIRA, ACTING AS SPOKESPERSON FOR THE GROUP, SAID SHE AND AIRES RODRIGUES WOULD NOT GIVE UP THEIR SEATS IN THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY. SHE URGED DELEGATES TO THE PS CONGRESS OPENING JAN 29 IN OPORTO TO DEMAND REINTEGRATION OF THE DISSIDENTS. PRIME MINISTER SOARES TOLD THE DCM ON JAN 27 THAT THE PS WAS BETTER OFF WITHOUT "TROTSKYITE" LEFT-WINGERS, EVEN THOUGH THEY WOULD REMAIN IN THE ASSEMBLY. EMPLOYMENT STATE SECRETARY TITO DE MORAIS TOLD THE ECONOMIC COUNSELOR THE SAME DAY THAT THE SOCIALISTS WOULD ENSURE BEFORE THE NEXT ELECTIONS THAT ALL PS CANDIDATES SUBMITTED UNDATED RESIGNATIONS.

4. COMMENT: PRESIDENT EANES'S STATEMENTS IN THE ALGARVE WILL GIVE A BOOST TO GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO WORK OUT SOME KIND OF "UNDERSTANDING" WITH ORGANIZED LABOR. HIS CALL FOR RESTRAINT BY PUBLIC SERVICE WORKERS IS PARTICULARLY TIMELY. SINCE THAT ISSUE IS NOW BEFORE ASSEMBLY. THE ALGARVE STATEMENTS ARE FURTHER INDICATION OF A MORE ACTIVE ROLE BY THE PRESIDENT TO STIMULATE ECONOMIC RECOVERY.

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 28-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Remarks:
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Subject: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS: PRESIDENT CALLS FOR LABOR RESTRAINT SUMMARY: PRESIDENT EANES, VISITING THE ALGARVE AS
TAGS: PINT, ELAB, ECON, PO, (EANES, ANTONIO DOS SANTOS RAMALHO)
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